



Sachin's portrait unveiled in MCC Museum at Lord's
A portrait of the legendary Sachin Tendulkar was unveiled in the MCC Museum at Lord's before the start of the third Test between India and England here on Thursday.

Bengaluru brouhaha resonates in distant Delhi
If ever there was a perfect tussle for power, the Karnataka example would fit to a 'T'. What began as a sustained bout of shadow boxing in the summer of 2023 as a resurgent Congress stormed to power in the south-western state

India makes it to global top-10 tech markets
India ranks among world's top-10 tech markets in 2025, particularly standing out in terms of talent availability, with its top six cities making the top 10 list for tech talent acquisition in the Asia-Pacific region, a report showed on Thursday.

'The 100' review: A riveting thriller with heart and heft
RK Sagar returns to the silver screen with 'The 100,' a compelling investigative thriller directed by Raghav Omkar Sasidhar. Based on real-life events, the film marks a strong comeback for Sagar, who is best known for his iconic TV role as RK Naidu

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WINDOWS



Three children drown in pond in Haryana's Kaithal

KAITHAL: Three children drowned after slipping and falling into a pond in Kaithal, the police said on Thursday. The victims, cousins aged between eight and nine years, were playing near the pond in Saran village when the incident occurred on Wednesday. The soil around the pond had become slippery due to recent rains, which caused the children to allegedly lose their footing and fall in. A girl playing nearby alerted the locals, who quickly rushed to the pond and attempted to rescue the children. By the time they were taken to the hospital, it was too late to save them, officials said.

Hasina indicted in 'crimes against humanity' case

DHAKA: Bangladesh's deposed premier Sheikh Hasina formally indicted in crimes against humanity case, local media reports. Bangladeshi prosecutors at the International Crimes Tribunal have formally charged former prime minister Sheikh Hasina of crimes against humanity during the mass uprising in the country last year. Besides Sheikh Hasina, the country's former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal and ex-IGP Chowdhury Mamun are also named as co-accused.

Texas floods: 120 dead, over 170 missing

TEXAS: The toll of the catastrophic flood that hit Texas on July 4 has risen to 120, as a search continues for missing people. There were more than 170 people still unaccounted for, according to figures provided by Texas Governor Greg Abbott, suggesting the death toll could still rise significantly. Searchers have not found anyone alive since Friday. Search and rescue team members look for missing people amid fallen trees by the Guadalupe River in Hunt, Texas. Officials in flood-stricken central Texas on Wednesday again deflected mounting questions about whether they could have done more to warn people.

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Exercise not the problem, timing is: SC to EC on SIR

Top court asks EC to consider Aadhaar, Voter ID, ration cards in Bihar electoral roll revision

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

THE Supreme Court on Thursday questioned the Election Commission of India on the timing of the Special Intensive Revision drive in poll-bound Bihar saying it went to the "root of democracy and power to vote" while rejecting the argument that the poll panel did not have any power to carry it out. The ECI also justified the

exercise and said Aadhaar wasn't a "proof of citizenship". A bench of Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and Joymalya Bagchi questioned Dwivedi over the exclusion of Aadhaar card in the SIR drive in Bihar and said the ECI had nothing to do with citizenship of a person and it was the Ministry of Home Affairs' domain. Dwivedi responded while referring to Article 326 of the

Constitution and said every voter has to be an Indian citizen and "Aadhaar card is not proof of citizenship". Top court asked EC to consider Aadhaar, Voter ID, ration cards in Bihar electoral roll revision Justice Dhulia said, "If you are to check citizenship under SIR of electoral rolls in Bihar, then you should have acted early; it is a bit late." The bench, in the meantime, rejected the submission

of the petitioners' counsel that the ECI did not have power to conduct any such exercise in Bihar for it was mandated under the Constitution and the last such exercise happened in 2003. While referring to the petitioners' contentions, the bench said the ECI had to answer three questions as the SIR exercise in Bihar went to "root of democracy and power to vote". The questions of the pe-

tioners, including political parties and their leaders aside from civil society members and organisations, deal with the ECI's power to conduct such an exercise and its timing. Dwivedi said with passage of time, electoral rolls need to be revised to look into inclusion or exclusion of voter names with the SIR being the one exercise to do it. He asked if the ECI did not have the power to revise the



electoral roll then who did. The poll panel, however, assured the top court of not leaving out anyone from the voter list without an opportunity to be heard.

4.4 earthquake hits Har, tremors felt in Delhi-NCR

► The epicentre was 3 km northeast of Jhajjar and 51 km west of Delhi. It struck at a depth of 10 km at 9.04 am
► In Delhi, panic gripped neighbourhoods soon after the tremors were felt and people gathered in the open

PURNA SINGH
NEW DELHI

An earthquake of magnitude 4.4 struck near Jhajjar in Haryana on Thursday morning, sending tremors across the Delhi-NCR region. The epicentre was 3 km northeast of Jhajjar and 51 km west of Delhi. The earthquake struck at a depth of 10 km at 9.04 am, the National Centre for Seismology said. Besides Jhajjar, the tremors were felt in neighbouring Rohtak and Gurugram districts, Panipat, Hisar and Meerut. "It was a strong jolt. I think this is the first time in my life that it felt so strong," said an elderly man in Jhajjar. Many rushed out of their homes when the tremors hit, he said. In Delhi, panic gripped neighbourhoods soon af-



ter the tremors were felt and people gathered in the open. People ran out of their homes, many of them barefoot and still in their nightwear. Sultan Khan, a resident of Vikaspuri, said the experience was unnerving. "We suddenly felt the ground shaking and ran out of our house. We realised later that it was an earthquake. Many stayed outside for a

while after the tremors were felt, fearing that more might follow. "We have been standing outside for the past 45 minutes because we are afraid that a stronger earthquake might strike next," another Vikaspuri resident said. "It rained heavily last night, so we were all fast asleep. But as soon as the tremors hit, we rushed out of the house in fear," he said. Similar scenes played out in Noida and Greater Noida. Neelam Sharma, a resident of Kendriya Vihar in Greater Noida, said she was in the kitchen making breakfast for her family when she felt the tremors. "The floor shook and when I looked outside the window, my neighbours were already standing outside and talking about the earthquake," she said.

NO VACANCY FOR CM POST IN K'TAKA: SIDDARAMAIAH

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

KARNATAKA Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday said there was "no vacancy" for the CM's post as he was very much in the chair, debunking talks of a possible change of leadership in the state. Siddaramaiah claimed that he would complete his five-year tenure as chief minister and brushed aside talks of him paving the way for his deputy D K Shivakumar to take over later this year. When reporters asked about any change of leadership in Karnataka, Siddaramaiah said, "Is there any vacancy for chief ministership? I am very much here before you. I am the



chief minister of Karnataka. That is what D K Shivakumar has said, and I am also saying it... There is no vacancy." There has been speculation of Siddaramaiah stepping down amid some sections of MLAs pitching for Shivakumar for the CM's post. Siddaramaiah is in the national capital and is expected to meet the top leadership of the Congress, including party chief Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi.

People punished Indira: Tharoor slams Emergency

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NEW DELHI

SENIOR Congress leader Shashi Tharoor has criticised the Emergency declared by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1975, saying the people of the country responded clearly to the excesses of that period by voting her party out of power by a large margin. In an article published on the measure, which lasted between 25 June 1975 and 21 March 1977, in the Malayalam daily Deepika on Thursday, the Congress Working Committee member termed it 'a dark chapter' in India's history and recalled



Indira Gandhi's son Sanjay Gandhi's notorious acts, including forced sterilisation campaigns and the merciless demolition of slums in New Delhi. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was seen as having endorsed harsh actions, Tharoor said, criticising the country's first woman prime minister -- whom the Nehru family and the Congress regard as the Iron Lady of India -- on the matter.

Tennis player shot dead by father in Gurugram

HANS NEWS SERVICE
GURUGRAM

State-level tennis player Radhika Yadav was allegedly shot dead by her father on Thursday at their double-storeyed home in upscale Sushant Lok here, police said. The 25-year-old, who was shot in the back while cooking, died on the spot, officials said. Her father, 49-year-old Deepak Yadav, has been arrested and his .32 bore licensed pistol recovered



from his possession, they said. Why he did so is still unclear. The father allegedly fired more than five bullets. Her mother was in the ground floor and Radhika, who played tennis for Haryana, was in the kitchen

on the first floor when the crime took place, officials said. A police team reached the house took the body into custody. "We are questioning the family members. A probe is underway and the picture will be clear soon," said Inspector Vinod Kumar, SHO of the Sector 56 police station. The family lives in Sushant Lok-Phase 2, Sector 57. The father, police said, is a resident of Wazirabad village.

No provision to shut meat shops on Kanwar Yatra: MCD

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NEW DELHI

THE Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) said on Thursday that there is no provision to shut meat shops on the kanwar yatra routes under the DMC Act, 1957. The statement came a day after Culture and Tourism Minister Kapil Mishra said that meat shops will remain shut on kanwar yatra routes, saying that the decision was taken by the Delhi government and the MCD. The annual kanwar yatra begins in the month of shravan, or saawan. It begins tomorrow and will culminate on July 25. In a written reply to a question in the MCD House, the civic body said that under the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957, there is no provision to shut meat shops on the routes



of the kanwar yatra. However, in the past few years, it has been observed that owners of these establishments voluntarily keep their shops closed during the annual pilgrimage. "(MCD's) regional offices have been directed to run a special campaign against illegal animal slaughter and sale of meat in the open to ensure that the religious sentiments of anyone are not hurt," the written reply said during the monthly House proceedings.



Centre revises SMILE scheme to provide beggars 'life of dignity'

SMILE adopts a four-pronged approach: survey and identification, outreach and mobilisation, rescue and shelter, and comprehensive resettlement to promote long-term rehabilitation

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

THE Centre has revised SMILE, its flagship rehabilitation programme for beggars, with an annual budget of Rs 37 crore, to ensure they move toward self-reliance and a life of dignity. Officials emphasised that the revised SMILE scheme marks a shift from punitive responses to a rights-based, rehabilitative approach that offers structured support to

help vulnerable individuals. The updated SMILE (Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise) scheme adopts a four-pronged approach: survey and identification, outreach and mobilisation, rescue and shelter, and comprehensive resettlement to promote long-term rehabilitation and restore social dignity to the country's most marginalised groups. The scheme will be implemented in cities focusing on

pilgrimages, sites of religious importance, historical landmarks and tourist areas across the country in partnership with the state administration and relevant organisations. According to the revised guidelines of the scheme, religious trusts and shrine boards will also play a significant role in implementing the scheme at pilgrimage and religious sites. The Centre has earmarked Rs 100 crore over three years for the scheme: Rs 30 crore

for 2023-24, Rs 33 crore for 2024-25, and Rs 37 crore for 2025-26. The funds will be released in three instalments: 30 per cent for survey and mobilisation, 50 per cent for shelter and rehabilitation, and 20 per cent based on verified progress and reintegration status. The government aims to rehabilitate 2,500 individuals in the first year, 6,000 in the second, and 8,000 in the third. Each shelter home has been allocated an annual budget of Rs 48.7 lakh to cover opera-

tional costs, including food, staffing, counselling, skilling, and awareness campaigns. Municipal bodies and district administrations will conduct detailed surveys to profile beneficiaries based on factors such as age, gender, legal status, and health conditions. The data collected will be uploaded to a national portal under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for real-time monitoring. Once identified, individu-



als will be offered spot counselling and will be mobilised into shelter homes, either existing facilities under the DAY-NULM (Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana National Urban Livelihoods Mission) or rented shelters where required. Each shelter home, with a minimum capacity of 50 individuals, will provide food, clothing, hygiene kits, bedding, toilets, and recreational activities such as yoga.